

- Males have higher mortality and morbidity from nearly all causes than females. Among both adults and youth, males report more exposure to health risks, including physical violence, AOD use and abuse, and other unsafe practices.
- Males are at excess risk of injury, especially in adolescence and early adulthood.
- Homicide risk is higher for blacks, motor vehicle crash death rates are higher for whites.
- Blacks are severely disadvantaged compared to whites in mortality and morbidity, with notable exceptions such as COPD, suicide, motor vehicle crashes, and AOD-related practices.
- Youthful sexual practices among blacks increase their risk of STDs, adolescent pregnancy and HIV/AIDS. White youths' AOD use and abuse, carrying weapons, and engaging in fights increase their susceptibility to injury and disability.

EMERGING HEALTH CARE INITIATIVES

The Tennessee Department of Health is committed to a range of responses to the health care needs and problems of Tennesseans. Initiatives are underway to:

- **Increase Health Insurance Coverage and Access for the Uninsured and Uninsurable Through TennCare**
 - In 1994 in order to reduce health care expenditures, Tennessee implemented managed care with a single point of entry.
 - An estimated 90%-95% of all Tennesseans now have health insurance.

- Services are offered through managed care organizations (MCOs), which provide inpatient and outpatient hospital care, physician services, prescription drugs, lab and x-ray services, medical supplies, home health care, hospice care, and ambulance transportation. Behavioral health organizations (BHOs) provide mental health and substance abuse treatment services.
- Enrollment opened in April, 1997 to all children under 18 who do not have and cannot obtain insurance coverage.

□ **Develop partnerships**

To bring together complementary assets, the Tennessee Department of Health is partnering with:

- Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.
- Community Health Research Group at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the National Center for Health Statistics.
- The Tennessee Health Care Consortium, funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.
- Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth
- Social Science Research Institute at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
- Tennessee Department of Education.
- Tennessee Valley Association.
- Tennessee Hospital Association.
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Regional and local health councils, formed in 1996.
- Plus numerous other agencies and entities.